

Knitting machineTechnical field

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The invention relates to a knitting machine according to the preamble of claim 1.

Prior art

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There are many known knitting machines of the type initially mentioned. Such knitting machines are equipped with an electronic control device for controlling the knitting machine on the basis of a pattern program for the textile material to be produced. The pattern program may be produced in the control device itself or in an external electronic pattern apparatus from which it can then be supplied to the electronic control device in the knitting machine by means of a data carrier or data line. The knitting machine contains, furthermore, electrically driven thread feeders for supplying weft threads to the weft bars which, according to the pattern program, lay the weft threads across the knitting needles which tie up the weft threads. The knitting machines are equipped, furthermore, with a take-down device for the textile material produced. The disadvantage, however, is that the thread feeders can operate only at an adjustable constant speed which is not sufficient in many instances, since, particularly in the case of changing patterning, changing delivery quantities for the weft thread or weft threads are also required, and the weft bars have themselves to draw additional thread lengths which are lacking. This leads to faults in the textile material and/or also in the knitting machine during the processing of thread qualities which, in particular, have different thicknesses.

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Presentation of the invention

The purpose of the invention is to improve further a knitting machine of the type initially mentioned.

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The said object is achieved by means of the characterizing features of claim 1. Since the control device has control means in order to set the delivery length of the weft thread to be supplied according to 10 the travel of the weft bar, said travel being predetermined from the pattern program, this ensures that the exactly required thread length is always available for each laying of a weft thread and for each pattern. There is no longer any need for the weft 15 thread to be drawn off by the weft bar, for example from a cone. As a result, the textile material, in general, and the pattern formation, in particular, are appreciably improved. During the knitting operation, faults, such as thread breaks and flaws, are largely 20 prevented.

A development as claimed in claim 2 is particularly advantageous, since, by means of the correcting factor which additionally varies the delivery length of the 25 weft thread, further adaption, for example, to different thread qualities and/or pattern properties of the textile material to be produced can be achieved.

A particularly advantageous correcting apparatus has, 30 as claimed in claim 3, a screen, preferably a touch screen, and an editing element for manual selection of various indicators and control layers, in particular that for handling the correcting factor.

Brief description of the drawings

Exemplary embodiments of the invention are described in more detail below with reference to the drawings in  
5 which:

figure 1 shows diagrammatically a side view of the set-up of a knitting machine; and

10 figure 2 shows an indicator and switching layer for setting a correcting factor for thread feeders.

Ways of implementing the invention

15 Figure 1 shows a diagram of a knitting machine in a side view. At a knitting station 2, warped threads 4 are introduced in the usual way into knitting needles, not illustrated in any more detail, by means of thread laying devices 6. In addition, by means of thread guides arranged on weft bars 8, weft threads 10 are laid across one or more knitting needles according to the pattern program and are knitted in by means of these. The warped threads 4 are taken down from a warp reel 12. The weft threads 10 are taken down, in each case by means of an electrically driven thread feeder 14, from a reel 16 and via a thread brake 18 and are supplied to the thread guides. Thread tensioners 20 ensure a uniform tension of the thread to be supplied. In the example shown, four weft threads are supplied to the knitting station 2. A further thread feeder 22 serves for supplying a rubber thread 24 to the knitting station 2.

35 The textile material produced at the knitting station 2 is taken down, for example, from a take-down device 28 provided with an electric drive, runs through a thermosetting device 30 and arrives at an electrically driven additional take-down device 32 which discharges

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the finished textile material, for example, to a container 34.

The knitting machine contains an electronic control device 36 which, in the example shown, receives the pattern program for the textile material to be produced from an electronic pattern apparatus 40 via a floppy disk 38. The pattern program of the floppy disk 38 is entered into a reader 42 which is connected to the electronic control device 36. The control device 36 contains control means in order to set the delivery length of at least one weft thread 10 to be supplied according to the travel of the weft bar, said travel being predetermined from the pattern program. Furthermore, the control device 36 has a manually actuatable correcting apparatus 44 for the individual superposition of an adjusting correcting factor K onto the delivery data of at least one weft thread for at least one weft insertion. The correcting apparatus 44 is described in more detail with reference to figure 2.

The correcting apparatus 44 contains a screen 45 which is preferably designed as a touch screen and which has a series of indicator and switching elements for manually selectable indicator and switching layers.

Figure 2 shows the indicator and switching layer for the correcting factor K. The indicator and switching layer contains, first, an indicator element 46 showing the selected thread feeder which can be selected by means of the setting elements 48<sub>1</sub>, 48<sub>2</sub>. In the present example, the thread feeder 1 is selected. The indicator element 50 indicates the weft bar, here the weft bar 4, to which the set thread feeder applies, and in this case a corresponding selection can be made by means of the setting elements 52<sub>1</sub>, 52<sub>2</sub>. However, it is necessary to coordinate which thread feeder has actually been assigned to which weft bar. The indicator element 54

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designates the weft selected by means of the setting elements 56<sub>1</sub>, 56<sub>2</sub>, here weft number 1, to which the correcting factor K, which is evident on the indicator element 58 and here amounts to 102%, is to apply. The  
5 correcting factor K = 102% states that the already individual normal delivery length which is predetermined by control means on the basis of the pattern program and which amounts to 100% is to be increased by 2%. The correcting factor K may be  
10 increased or reduced by means of the setting elements 60<sub>1</sub>, 60<sub>2</sub>. The indicator and setting layer can be changed by means of the key X.

List of reference symbols

K      Correcting factor  
5    X      Key  
  
2      Knitting station  
4      Warp thread  
6      Thread laying device  
10    8      Weft bar  
      10    Weft thread  
      12    Warp reel  
      14    Thread feed  
      16    Reel  
15    18    Thread brake  
      20    Thread tensioner  
      22    Thread feeder  
      24    Rubber thread  
      26    Textile material  
20    28    Take-down device  
      30    Thermosetting device  
      32    Additional take-down device  
      34    Container  
      36    Control device  
25    38    Floppy disk  
      40    Pattern apparatus  
      42    Reader  
      44    Correcting apparatus  
      45    Screen  
30    46    Indicator element - thread feeder  
      48<sub>1</sub> Setting element  
      48<sub>2</sub> Setting element  
      50    Indicator element - weft bar  
      52<sub>1</sub> Setting element  
35    52<sub>2</sub> Setting element  
      54    Indicator - weft insertion  
      56<sub>1</sub> Setting element  
      56<sub>2</sub> Setting element

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58 Indicator element - correcting factor

60<sub>1</sub> Setting element

60<sub>2</sub> Setting element